

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 9 are amended, and claims 17 and 18 are added. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for the language added to claims 1 and 9 is found in, for example, paragraphs [0081] - [0085] of the specification. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,559,933 to Boswell in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,259,405 to Stewart et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action on page 2 asserts that Boswell discloses a data output controller, as recited in independent claims 1 and 9. The Office Action admits on page 3 that Boswell does not explicitly teach that the user terminal is a portable terminal. However, the Office Action asserts that Stewart makes up for this deficiency. Specifically, the Office Action asserts on page 3 that Stewart teaches a portable user terminal and that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made "to employ the teachings of Stewart within the system of Boswell by implementing portable client terminals attached to the data output controller." For at least the following reasons, applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion.

None of the applied references teach, disclose or suggest a data format converting device that converts the output data into a format according to output terminal information, as recited in amended claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 9.

Specifically, the selecting device searches the output terminal information based on information such as output format, location, and input data format. Further, the selecting device can retrieve output terminal information from the storage device on the basis of the

search data according to the capability of the data format converting device. In other words, the data output controller has a conversion capability to convert an input data whose format is TIFF to JPEG, and also has the ability to convert from TIFF to POSTSCRIPT based on the capability of the data format converting device, and output devices searched by the TIFF, JPEG, and POSTSCRIPT formats. Thus, the scope of selecting the output device becomes wider, and it is possible to select an output device which is closer to the user's demand. See e.g., page 18, paragraph [0081] to page 19, paragraph [0085].

In contrast, Boswell discloses a system for transferring and printing files originating on mainframe computer systems, workstations, and personal computers. The system transfers files by searching the file mask against a set of file masks from the database which transfers the print job to print the file depending on the attributes specified in the matched file mask. See e.g., Boswell, col. 5, lines 1-12. Stewart merely discloses a geographic based communications service system that includes a portable computing device.

Thus, the combination of the system of Boswell and the portable device of Stewart would only disclose performing a search of an output device from a portable terminal and printing. Accordingly, there is no clear showing that the resulting combination of Boswell and Stewart would correspond to the features as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claim 9. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Also, as discussed in the November 22, 2004 personal interview, claims 17 and 18 are allowable.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

JAO:KPG/fpw

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